

PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS: Guidance for Indiana's Child Care Facilities Training Video

“Cheat Sheet”

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

5-Star Recognition Program

- Completely voluntary program (has no bearing on your license or registration status)
- Indiana child care centers, ministries, and homes who are licensed or registered may apply.
- Recognizes you for going above and beyond compliance on health, safety, and environmental regulations
- Program focuses on:
 - *Environmental Threats* (lead, asbestos, mercury, pesticides, etc.)
 - *Health and Safety Issues* (building safety, fire and emergency planning, chemical safety, etc.)
 - *Environmental Stewardship* (recycling, energy efficiency, education, etc.)
- Participants can apply for 1, 3, or 5 stars depending on the criteria they meet.
- Must re-apply every two years.
- For more information or an application for the program, call IDEM's Office of Pollution Prevention and Technical Assistance at (800) 988-7901.

Free Resources

- Protecting Children from Environmental Threats: Guidance for Indiana's Child Care Facilities Manual
- Confidential, on-site or telephone assistance at (800) 988-7901
- Miscellaneous brochures, posters, magnets, placemats, etc. (lead, asthma, pesticides, mercury, etc.)
- Self-Assessment
- Environmental Pledge
- Web site: <http://www.state.in.us/idem/kids/5star/index.html>

Regulations for 3 Types of Child Care Facilities



Centers



Homes



Ministries

(for more information, refer to Chapter 1 in the manual)

POTENTIAL OUTDOOR HAZARDS

Carbon Monoxide

- ❑ Instruct parents to shut off their vehicles as they wait for the loading and unloading of children.
- ❑ Install a carbon monoxide alarm if your facility has gas appliances such as a stove or furnace. (for more information, refer to section 2.4 in the manual)

Lead

- ❑ Mulch or plant grass seed in bare soil areas.
 - ❑ Place a mat in all entryways to prevent tracking soil throughout the building.
 - ❑ Cover lead-based paint with water-based paint.
- (for more information, refer to section 2.1 in the manual)



POTENTIAL INDOOR HAZARDS

Lead

- ❑ DO NOT scrape, sand or burn lead-based paint.
 - ❑ Consider covering it with water-based paint, wallpaper, or contact paper.
 - ❑ Dust regularly with wet rags or mops. Use clean, warm, soapy water mixed with common dish detergent. Thoroughly rinse sponges and mop heads with dish soap or cleaner after each cleaning.
- (for more information, refer to section 2.1 in the manual)

Mercury

- ❑ Be sure children are not in the room when florescent light bulbs are changed.
 - ❑ Wrap burned out bulbs in paper and store them in a box (save their original box) that is marked “Bulbs Containing Mercury for Recycling”.
 - ❑ Purchase a mercury spill kit if your building has mercury thermostats or any other mercury containing items.
 - ❑ Take mercury containing thermometers (look for a silver liquid) to your local solid waste management district to be recycled. Replace them with digital or alcohol (often blue or red liquid) thermometers.
 - ❑ Never throw mercury containing items in the trash!
 - ❑ Identify and label every item that contains mercury at your facility. (Refer the manual or self-assessment for a list of common mercury containing items.)
- (for more information, refer to section 2.6 in the manual)

Pesticides

- ❑ Never apply pesticides when children are present.
- ❑ Begin an Integrated Pest Management Program at your facility
 - ❑ Ensure all windows and doors have window screens and that there are no holes in them.
 - ❑ Use weather stripping to keep pests out.
 - ❑ Seal cracks and holes.
 - ❑ Store food in plastic containers with sealable lids.

- ❑ Clean regularly. Be sure floors and counters are free of food scraps, grease, and any other spills.
- ❑ Educate teachers on types of pests. Keep a log of what types of pests are seen and where teachers see them. Share this information with your pest control person.
- ❑ Use hormones and baits rather than sprays.
- ❑ Eliminate sources of water. Keep mop heads off the floor, clear floor drains, ensure that sinks and counters are dry after use. If tires are used for swings or climbing devices, drill holes in the bottom of tires to prevent water collection.

(for more information, refer to section 2.8 in the manual)

POTENTIAL HAZARDS IN THE KITCHEN

Pests

- ❑ Do not store food in paper or cardboard boxes. Store food in resealable plastic containers.
- ❑ Clean dirty dishes immediately.
- ❑ Sweep at least daily to clean up crumbs. Be sure to sweep in the tough spots (behind stove, refrigerator, etc.)
- ❑ Storage shelves should be off the ground and away from the wall. You should be able to get a broom underneath the shelf.

(for more information, refer to section 2.8 in the manual)

Lead in Drinking Water

- ❑ Flush your pipes for at least 30 seconds before drinking or cooking.
- ❑ Use cold water for drinking or food preparation.
- ❑ Get your water tested. Consult a water professional.
- ❑ Treat your well. Contact your local health department, the Indiana State Department of Health (800-433-0746), or IDEM's Drinking Water Branch (800-451-6027, press 0 and ask for extension 308-3292)

OTHER HAZARDS

Radon

- ❑ Test for Radon. Radon testing kits can be purchased at some hardware stores or you can order one through the National Safety Council at (800) 557-2366.

(for more information, refer to section 2.3 in the manual)

Bloodborne Pathogens

- ❑ Train employees in Universal Precautions (Regulations require that you do this.)
- ❑ Wash hands before and after diapering a child.
- ❑ Encourage children to wash their hands before eating and after restroom use.

(for more information, refer to section 3.3 in the manual)

Chemicals

- ❑ Wait for children to leave the room before using industrial cleaners, bacterial disinfectants, and other harsh chemicals.
- ❑ You must identify and communicate workplace hazards to employees. You must have a written Hazard Program and it must be available to all employees.

- ❑ You must keep a list of all hazardous materials kept on site and you must also keep a material safety data sheet for each of those materials.
(for more information, refer to section 3.4 in the manual)

Biological Contaminates

- ❑ Clean the air vents.
- ❑ Install new air filters quarterly.
- ❑ Check drain pans to be sure they are clean and slant toward the drain.
- ❑ Clear obstructions or clogged screens from the air intakes.
- ❑ Be sure dumpsters or areas where cars idle are not located near the intake.
- ❑ Ventilate the attic and crawl spaces.
- ❑ Refill humidifiers with fresh water daily.
- ❑ Thoroughly clean and dry water damaged carpets and building materials within 24 hours. Replace carpet padding if carpets have not dried within 24 hours.
- ❑ Clean frequently to keep dust levels down.
- ❑ Don't vacuum or sweep until the kids leave the room or go home for the day. Consider using a HEPA vacuum.
- ❑ Consider removing animals from the classroom if any of the children have asthma or adverse reactions to the animal.

(for more information, refer to section 2.5 in the manual)

Asbestos

- ❑ If you are planning to renovate your childcare facility (home, center, or ministry), Indiana law requires that prior to the renovation or demolition, you must have the affected part of the facility inspected by a licensed asbestos inspector.

(for more information, refer to section 2.2 in the manual)

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

The manual contains detailed information about each of the subjects discussed in this video. The complete manual is available on the web at: <http://www.in.gov/idem/kids/manual/> If you do not have web access, you can receive a free copy by calling (800) 988-7901.

Chapter 4 (Throughout Your Facility) in the manual contains checklists for each type of room in your facility (classrooms, kitchen, utility room, breakroom, bathrooms, laundry room, outside).

Chapter 5 (Guidance by Profession) in the manual contains checklists for each type of employee at your facility (directors, teachers, maintenance staff, cleaning staff, and kitchen staff).

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about this video or the 5-star program or if you would like a confidential site visit at your facility, please call IDEM's Office of Pollution Prevention and Technical Assistance at (800) 988-7901.

